

## DEVELOPMENT OF LIBERTY

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modern times notions of liberty have spread rapidly. To self-consciousness liberty can make a special appeal. The recent revolutions in Persia and China were inspired by a conscious desire for self-assertion which was felt by large numbers of the population. However ineffective it was at least a new element in the feelings of the East. We still hold that children must obey their parents, servants their masters, and that all are constrained by the laws of their land : but society no longer supports the absolute power of the father over his children, of the master over his slave, of the despot over his subjects. Liberty, that is to say, spontaneity of will, appears to be gradually weakening the chains of habit. And habit itself it must be remembered, is not an hereditary despotism, differing in this respect from directive instinct. Our habits are contracted by ourselves, and it is possible for us to change them. By habit, moreover, we can gain deliverance from so to speak, inherited enslavement. For by its help we may control the impulsive instincts which survive as the mainsprings of our actions and emotions, and, by facilitating behaviour that is good, strengthen ourselves to resist the temptations of evil.

With a great price man has obtained this measure of freedom : he has paid for it in count-  
less years of degrading error into which, in his

liberty. he has drifted. Mistaking  
images of the  
memory for visions of the  
supernatural. he has  
concluded that the material world has  
a spiritual.  
or shadowy counterpart. with which he  
is in  
communication through the  
counterpart. or  
" double 51 of himself. It seemed  
unreasonable  
that either the substance or the  
shadow should be  
subject to annihilation : death  
accordingly ap-  
peared to be an unnatural termination  
of activity,